width of the walls, cells or groups, and in that the groups may be loaded from the frame whilst still under compression.

--17. A frame as claimed in claim 16 further comprising stop means for each space insertable between a respective pair of walls into the respective space to locate the bottom edge of a group when it is placed into the space.

--18. A frame for use in loading battery plates into respective cells in a box, comprising a plurality of spaced walls defining group receiving spaces, the walls being movable away from and towards each other to allow groups to be inserted into the spaces and subsequently grippingly retained therein by the walls characterized in that it further comprises removable stop means for each space insertable between a respective pair of walls into the respective space to locate the bottom edge of a group when it is placed into the space.

--19. A frame as claimed in claim 18 wherein the stop means locate the group against downward movement and lateral movement relative to the mid-plane of the group.

--20. A frame as claimed in claim 18 wherein the stops means are removable from the spaces.

--21. A frame as claimed in claim 18 wherein the stop means provide orthogonal abutments and are rotatable about an axis adjacent tot he intersection of the abutments.

--22. A frame as claimed in claim 18 wherein the stops means are moveable with or in relation to the walls.

--23. A frame as claimed in claim 18 wherein the distance between the group bottom edge location defined by the stop means and the top of its associated walls is greater than the total height of the groups.

--24. Battery group loading apparatus including a frame as claimed in claim 18 and further comprising means for loading the groups into respective spaces in the frame to sit on the respective stop means, means for moving the walls towards each other to grip the groups between the walls, means for removing the stop means from the spaces, means for engaging a battery box with the guide means and means for pushing the groups through the guide means into the box.

--25. Apparatus as claimed in claim 24 wherein the means for moving the walls towards each other are further for exerting compressive forces on the groups.

--26. Apparatus as claimed in claim 24 wherein the pushing means acts simultaneously on all the groups.

--27. A method of unloading a battery group from a jig box including engaging the bottom of group on a support, releasing the grip of the jig box on the groups, raising the support and hence the group until a substantial portion of the group is clear of the jig box and gripping the raised group.